Supreme Court, U.S.
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No. : 08-8

In the

Supreme Court of the United States

ROBERT R. WATSON,

Petitioner Pro-Se,

-against-

MICHAEL B. MUKASEY,

Respondent.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

(1) Can the deportation order be valid when the OSC lacked the statutorily mandated advisals *re* notifying the Courts of any address change, the consequences of not doing so and the Service of the Notice of hearing was improper?

(2) Whether Fifth Circuit Panel's decision is in conflict with other Courts of Appeal decisions?

(3) Whether Court of Appeal committed very obvious and exceptional errors of fact and law in finding that I did not have reasonable cause for missing the deportation hearing, and the departure from its past procedure and practices in adjudicating instant case an abuse of discretion?

(4) Whether Court of Appeal precluded from using the legal argument at 8 U.S.C. section 1305 based on the principle of Res Judicata and Collateral Estoppel?

(5) Whether 8 U.S.C. § 1305 authorizes an in absentia deportation order?

(6) Whether Estrada-Trochez analogous and applicable to instant case?

(7) Whether Congress addressed the issue of rescission of a deportation order due to the lack of receipt of the notice of hearing at; 8 U.S.C § 1229a(b)(5)(C)(ii) , and is there any ambiguity in said statute?

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Questions Presented i

List of Parties ii

Table of Contents iii

Table of Authorities iv

Opinions Below 1

Jurisdiction 2

Statement of the Case 3

Court of Appeals Jurisdiction 9

Argument 10

Conclusion 24

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Page

CASES:

Abdulai v. INS,
239 F.3d 542 (3rd Cir. 2001) 18-19

Anselmo ,
20 I&N Dec. 25 (1989) 19

Bowles v. Seminole Rock and Sand Co.,
325 U.S. 410, 414 (1945) 20

Bridges v. Wixon,
326 U.S. 135, 154 (1945) 25

Brieva-Perez v. Gonzales,
482 F.3d 356, 362 (5th Cir.2007)..... 15

Chevron U.S.A. Inc. v. Natural Resources Def. Council,
467 U.S. 837 (1984) 20, 23

Chowdry v. INS,
241, F.3d 848 (7th Cir. 2001)..... 13

Connecticut Nat'l Bank v. Germain,
503 U.S.249, 253-54 (1982) 22

Cormil-Rodriguez v. INS
(1976 CA2) (532, F.2d. 301)..... 20

Efe v. Ashcroft,
293 F.3d 899, 903-04 (5th Cir.1994) 20

Page

Estrada-Troschez,..... 22, 26, 27, 30

Faddoul v. INS,
37 F.3d 185, 186 (5th, Cir. 1994)..... 19

Green v. Brock Laundry Mach.Co,
490 U.S. 504, 527 (1989) 12

Ghedbremedhin v. Ashcroft,
(2004 CA7) 392 F.3d 241 29

Goldberg v. Kelley,
397, U.S. 254 (1970) 25

Harislades v. Shaughnessey,
342 U.S. 580 (1952) 26

Hernandez-Luis v. INS,
869, F.2d 496 (9th Cir. 1989) 11

In re Alicia Reyes-Chavez,
A 76 961 578-Boston..... 16, 17

In re G-Y-R- ,
23 I&N Dec. 181 (BIA 2001) 19, 25

In re Gonzalez- Lopez,
(BIA 1993) 20 I&N Dec. 644 24

In re Vizcara-Delgado,
(BIA 1968) 13 I&N Dec. 51 29

Page

INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca,
480, U.S. 421, 431 (1987) 23, 26

INS v. Phinpathya,
464 U.S. 183, 189 (1984) 24

Joshua v. Ashcroft,
(2004 CS 7) 389 F.3d 732 13

Jones v. Flowers,
No. 04-1477, slip op. 4-5
(U.S. Apr. 26, 2006) 22

Jose Luis Rodriguez-Gutierrez v. INS,
Case no. 94-40108, (5th Cir.) 18

Komi Adjonke v. Mukasey,
No. 07-60130 (5th Cir, 2007) 15

Lahmidi v. INS.,
149 F.3d 1011 (9th Cir. 1998) 12, 14

Landon v. Plascencia,
459 U.S. 21 34-35 (1982) 25

Matter of Cruz-Garcia,
22 I&N Dec. 1155, 1157 (BIA 1999) 8

Matter of Garcia,
16 Interim Dec. 653 (BIA 1978) 17

Matter of M-D-,
23 I&N Dec. 540, 546 10

Page

Matter of Shaar,
Interim Dec. 3290 (BIA 1996),
aff'd, 141 F. 3d 953 (9th Cir.) 24

Matter of W-F-,
Interim Dec. 3288 at 6 (BIA 1996)..... 24

Morton v. Ruiz,
415, U.S. 199, 235 (1974) 11

Negonsott v. Samuels 23

Ng Fung Ho v. White,
259 U.S. 276, 284 (1992) 26

Oscar Manuel Guzman v. INS,
Case no. 02-60409 (5th Cir.)..... 26

Nihad Rahmon v. John Ashcroft,
No. 02-60226 (5th Cir. Jan. 03, 2003)..... 18

Sabir v. Gonzales,
(2005 CA7) 389, F.3d, 456..... 14

Section 237 (a)(3)(A) of the Act 21

Section 240 (b)(5) of the Act 21

Section 265 (a) of the Act 21

Page

Section 266 (b) of the Act 21

Silva-Carvalho Lopez v. Gonzales,
(2006, CA2) 468, F.3d 81 25

Sing v. Gonzales,
No. 03-40102 (2nd. Cir. 2006)..... 13

United States v. Larionoff,
431 U.S. 864, 872 (1977) 20

U.S. ex rel. Bilokumsky v. Tod,
263, 149, 155 (1923)..... 11

U.S. v. Caceres,
440, U.S. 741 (1979) 11

U.S. v. Calderon-Medina,
591 F.2d 529, (9th Cir. 1979) 11

U.S. v. Lipscomb,
299, F.3d, 303, 338 (5th Cir. 2002)..... 11

Patrick Isi Ikhifa v. INS,
No. 93-5030 (5th Cir.) 18

U.S. v. Izaguirre-Flores,
405, F.3d 270, 277, (5th Cir. 2005)..... 12

8 C.F.R. § 1003.1 (g)(5)..... 16

Page

8 C.F.R. § 1003.2 (c) (2)(2006) 16

8 C.F.R. § 1003.2 (b) (i) (2002) 18

8 C.F.R. § 1003.15 (b)(7) 16

8 C.F.R. § 292.5 (a) (1995) 12

22 C.F.R. § 42.122(d) 21

8 U.S.C. § 1305 (a) (1986) 19, 20, 22, 27, 30

8 U.S.C. § 1227 (a)(3)(A)(Supp 1999) 11

8 U.S.C. § 1229 a (b)(5)(c)(ii) 4, 14, 23, 27

8 U.S.C. § 1229 a(C)(b) (2000) 18

8 U.S.C. § 1252 (a)(2)(A)(1993) 5, 9, 10

8 U.S.C. § 1252 (b)(2) 8, 10

8 U,S.C. § 1252b(a)(1)(F)(1993) 5, 10

8 U.S.C. § 1252 b 8, 10

8 U.S.C. § 1252 b (c)(i) 24

242 (b) of the INA, 8 USC §1252 (b) 8, 10

APPENDIX

Page

Exhibit A- Order of the United States Court of Appeals For the Fifth Circuit dated January 25, 2006 ..... 1a

Exhibit B- Order of the United States Court of Appeals For the Fifth Circuit Filed November 29, 2007 ..... 2a

Exhibit C- Order to Show Cause, Notice of Hearing and Warrant for Arrest of Alien 5a

Exhibit D- Memo of Immigration Court dated February 3, 1988 ..... 10a

Exhibit E- Memorandum and Order of United States Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review Immigration Court dated January 27 , 2003 ..... 14a

Exhibit F- Petition Approval I 130, dated June 17, 2003 ..... 18a

Exhibit G- *Komi Adjonke v. Michael B. Mukasey* Dated November 28, 2007 ..... 21a

Exhibit H- Board of Immigration Appeals Decision dated November 13, 2006 ..... 26a

Exhibit I- Board of Immigration Appeals Decision Dated, February 6, 2007 ..... 28a

Exhibit J- *Nihad Rahmoun v. John Ashcroft* Dated January 3, 2003 ..... 30a

Exhibit K- Letter of Immigration Court dated August 5, 2005 with Reply letter dated August 8, 2005 ..... 33a

Exhibit L- Affidavit of Robert Watson dated August 12, 2006 ..... 42a

Exhibit M- Letter of Robert Watson to Board of Immigration Appeals Re: Daughter 44a

OPINION BELOW

The opinion of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals denying my petition for review of the BIA's decisions are attached. The BIA's decisions are reported at pages 1a & 2a.

STATEMENT OF THE BASIS FOR JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Court of Appeals was entered on November 29th, 2007 and a motion for rehearing was denied on January 25th, 2008. The petition for a writ of certiorari was filed on April 24th, 2008. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. 1254 (I).

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On or about July 1st, 1986, I entered the U.S.A. at Mc. Allen Texas, without inspection. I was detained and released by the Border Patrol. I retained the service of an attorney Mr. Pena. It was rumored that if you paid him, he had an inside connection and would fix whatever needs fixing.

I departed to New York shortly thereafter. I stayed at my initial address for a very brief period.

My change of address was given to Mr. Pena but not to the INS, at this time I was not aware that I had an obligation to do so. There was no information in the OSC to this effect. Knowing that Mr. Pena could contact me if necessary and I had applied and received an approved Labor Certification I naively assumed that Mr. Pena was as good as rumored. Unfortunately this proved to be wishful thinking, Mr. Pena was disbarred shortly after I paid him and apparently he did not inform the Court of my change of address. The notice of hearing was sent to my previous address and returned to the Court as undeliverable, the same with the deportation order. The notices sent to Mr. Pena were also returned to the Court, similarly notated. I was ordered deported *in absentia* because being ignorant of the hearing notice, I could not attend. Even though I had possible relief in the form of an application for Labor Certification.

I have been trying to reopen and rescind deportation proceedings based on the irrefutable, incontrovertible fact that I did not receive the notice of hearing, that I was not notified in the OSC *re* the change of address notification and thus had reasonable cause for my absence. I did not receive the hearing notice and my motions to rescind sought rescission based on the statute at 8 U.S.C. § 1229a (b)(5)(C)(ii). My motions are being denied despite the fact that these results are contrary to the plain language of the statute, which applies to all aliens who have not received the notice of hearing.

CONSTITUTIONAL REGULATIONS AND STATUTES

Order to Show Cause Pre-IRRIRA: 8 U.S.C. § 1252 b (a) (1) (F) (1993).

> (7) A statement that the alien must advise the Immigration Court having administrative control over the Record of Proceeding of his or her current address and telephone number and a statement that failure to provide such information may result in an *in absentia* hearing in accordance with §1003.26 (Amended 6/30/95; 60 FR 34089)

Method of Service Pre-IRRIRA: 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a) (2) (A) (1993).

> Section 242B of the Act provides that "[w]ritten notice [of deportation proceedings under the section] shall be given in person to the alien (or, if personal service is not practicable, written notice shall be given by certified mail to the alien...)

Motion to Reopen: 8 C.F.R. § 1003.23 Reopening or reconsideration before the Immigration Court.

> 1003.2 Reopening or reconsideration before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

(a) General. The Board may at any time reopen or reconsider on its own motion any case in which it has rendered a decision. A request to reopen or reconsider any case in which a decision has been made by the Board, which request is made by the Service, or by the party affected by the decision, must be in the form of a written motion to the Board. The decision to grant or deny a motion to reopen or reconsider is within the discretion of the Board, subject to the restrictions of this section.

The Board has discretion to deny a motion to reopen even if the party moving has made out a prima facie case for relief.

***

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(3) of this section, a party may file only one motion to reopen deportation or exclusion proceedings (whether before the Board or the Immigration Judge) and that motion must be filed no later than 90 days after the date on which the final administrative decision was rendered in the proceeding south to be reopened, or on or before September 30. 1996, whichever is later. Except as provided in paragraph (c)(3) of this section, an alien, may file only one motion to reopen removal proceedings (whether before the Board or the Immigration Judge) and that motion must be filed no later than 90 days after the date on

which the final administrative decision was rendered in the proceeding sought to be reopened.

(3) In removal proceedings pursuant to section 240 of the Act, the time limitation set forth in paragraph (c)(2) of this section shall not apply to a motion to reopen filed pursuant to the provisions of 1003.23(b)(4)(ii). The motion to reopen filed pursuant to the provisions of 1003.23(b)(4)(ii). The time and numerical limitations set forth in paragraph (c)(2) of this section shall not apply to a motion to reopen proceedings: (i) Filed pursuant to the provisions of 1003.23(b)(4)(iii)(A)(1) or 1003.23 (b)(4)(iii)(A)(2); (ii) To apply or reapply for asylum or withholding of deportation based on changed circumstances arising in the country of nationality or in the country to which deportation has been ordered, if such evidence is material and was not available and could not have been discovered or presented at the previous hearing; (iii) Agreed upon by all parties and jointly filed. Notwithstanding such agreement, the parties may contest the issues in a reopened proceeding; or (iv) Filed by the Service in exclusion or deportation proceedings when the basis of the motion is fraud in the original proceeding or a crime that would support termination of asylum in accordance with 1208.22(f) of this chapter.

Matter of Cruz-Garcia: (1) The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 3.23(b)(4)(iii)(1998) imposes no time or numerical limitation on aliens seeking to reopen deportation proceedings conducted *in absentia* pursuant to section 242(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b)(1988). (2) When an alien seeks to reopen deportation proceedings conducted *in absentia* pursuant to section 242(b) of the Act, it is appropriate to apply the "reasonable cause" standard, not the "exceptional circumstances" standard set forth in section 242 B of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b) (Supp. II 1990).

Statute at [8 U.S.C. 1229a(b)(5)(C)(ii)].

(c) Rescission of Order

Such an order may be rescinded only-

(i) upon a motion to reopen filed within 180 days after the date of the order of removal if the alien demonstrates that the failure to appear was because of exceptional circumstances (as defined in subsection (e)(1) of this section), or

(ii) upon a motion to reopen filed at any time if the alien demonstrates that the alien did not receive notice in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2) of section 1 of this title or the alien demonstrates that the alien was in Federal or State custody and the failure to appear was through no fault of the alien.

COURT OF APPEALS JURISDICTION

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has jurisdiction where the appeal involves constitution claims or question of law. *See* 8 U.S.C.§ 1252 (a) (2) (D).

ARGUMENT

This Fifth Circuit panel decision should be reversed as it has no basis in the facts or relevant statutes. It is in conflict with other Circuit Court of Appeal precedent decisions, it is in conflict with this Court and even contrary to the BIA and Fifth Circuit policies. The deportation order should be voided as the statutory procedures established by statutes and regulations for the benefit of the alien were not adhered to. Under Pre-IIRIRA Law the order to show cause must warn the alien of the address change notification requirement and the consequences of failing to do so 8 U.S.C. § 1252 b (a) (1) (F) (1993). My OSC did not do so. (*See* Exhibit C, Order to Show Cause [5a]) The notice of hearing must include the date, time and place of the deportation hearing and be provided by certified mail if personal service was not possible. 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a) (2) (A) (1993). *See also Matter of M-D-*, 23 I&N Dec. 540, 546 (observing that "the use of certified mail in formal administrative proceedings is reflective of the interest at stake and is more protective of due process"). My notice was sent by regular mail. Sending the notice of hearing by regular mail is only permitted by the regulation under IIRIRA. Interpreting this mailing as proper service is an impermissible retroactive application of IIRIRA to instant case. Both procedures were mandated by statutes, the violation of which should result in the invalidation of the deportation order.

The Supreme Court has ruled "The duty to enforce an agency regulation is most evident when compliance with the regulation is mandated by the Constitution or Federal Law". (*United States v. Caceres*, 440 U.S. 741, (1979); *see also Bridges v. Wixon*, *supra*, at 152-53 (reaffirming the statement in U.S. ex rel. *Bilokumsky v. Tod*, 263 U.S. 149, 155 (1923), that one subject to deportation is legally entitled to insist upon the observance of rules promulgated by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to law).

Even if rules are not founded on a constitutional or statutory requirement an agency still has a "duty to obey them". *United States v. Caceres*, *supra*. at 751 n. 14. Although every regulatory violation need not result in the invalidation of all subsequent agency action, when the rights of individuals are affected, it is incumbent on agencies to follow their own procedures. *Morton v. Ruiz*, 415 U.S. 199, 235 (1974); *see also United States v. Calderon-Medina*, 591 F.2d 529 (9th Cir. 1979). The failure to follow a regulation or procedure of benefit to the alien which is prejudicial may requires the proceedings be invalidated as violative of due process. *See Matter of Garcia-Flores*, *supra*; *see also Hernandez-Luis v. INS*, 869 F.2d 496(9th Cir. 1989) (finding that a violation which prejudices a protected interest renders the regulation unenforceable).

Service of the notice of hearing was improper, the Court was fully aware that there were improprieties with the legal operations of the attorney of record, Mr. Pena's mails were being

returned as undeliverable. (*See* Exhibit D [10a], Memo dated February 3rd, 1988). Nonetheless the notice of hearing was mailed to Mr. Pena and the court seems to rely on this as service.(*see* Exhibit E [14a] paragraph 7) Although the regulation at 8 C. F. R. § 292.5 (a) (1995) [which provides that, when a respondent is subject to any requirement of the Act, service on counsel of record satisfies service on the respondent]. Under the circumstances of instant case this would be a draconian and unreasonable interpretation of the statute. *See United States v. Izaguirre-Flores*, 405 F.3d 270,277 (5th Cir. 2005) where the Court opined; "We will not interpret a statute in a fashion that will produce absurd results" *See also Green v. Brock Laundry Mach. Co.*, 490 U.S. 504. 527 (1989) (Scalia J. concurring, but in a context different from immigration) "We are confronted here with a statute which, if interpreted literally, produces an absurd and perhaps unconstitutional result".

The Fifth Circuit panel ruling is in conflict with several rulings and precedent decisions of other Courts of Appeal. *See* the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal decision; In *Lahmidi v. INS*, 149 F.3d 1011 (9th Cir. 1998), which held "that there is reasonable cause for failure to appear when the alien has not receive notice of the time and place of the hearing due to a change of address and the alien was not informed of the requirement that he or she advise the INS of such changes."

The 7th and 9th Circuits have agreed that the INS should not deny reopening of an *in absentia*

deportation order where the denial leads to the unconscionable result of deporting an individual eligible for relief from deportation (*see* Exhibit F [18a] approved I-130 as spouse of USC) *See Chowdry v. INS*, 241 F.3d 848 (7th Cir. 2001). *See also Singh v. Gonzales,* Docket number: 03-40102, Second Circuit (April 20, 2006), where the Court ruled "While the BIA posited several reasons for affirming the IJ's denial of the petitioner's motion to reopen after the IJ ordered him deported *in absentia*, and for denying the petitioner's motion to reconsider its prior order, these denials amounted to an abuse of discretion, because neither the IJ nor the BIA addressed Singh's exceptional circumstances argument in light of his eligibility to adjust status based on his marriage to a U.S. citizen."

See also Joshua v. Ashcroft, (2004, CA 7) 389 F.3d 732, "when issue is not notice but receipt, because statute allows alien ordered deported, removed *in absentia* proceedings to reopen proceedings if he did not receive notice even if notice that was sent, whether or not it was received, satisfied statutory and constitutional requirement, intended recipient affidavit of non receipt is evidence" (*see* Exhibit E [14a] I J's M&O paragraph 6). In the same case the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeal also observed, " that even if notice is properly served in accordance with the statute , the key issue in deciding whether to reopen proceedings after entry of an *in absentia* order is whether notice was received".

Although IJ properly entered initial *in absentia* order of removal based on attempted service under 8 U.S.C.S. § 1229(i). IJ should have granted alien's motion to reopen, under 8 U.S.C.S. § 1229a (b)(5), in face of conclusive proof that he did not receive notice and that there was no basis in the record to show that the alien thwarted delivery. *Sabir v. Gonzales*, (2005 CA7) 421 F.3d 456. The OSC lacked the required notification advisals, thus I was unaware of my obligation to inform the court of any address change and could not be charged with thwarting delivery. As a matter of fact after receiving Labor Certification without any adverse reaction from the authorities, I assumed that Mr. Pena's fee was money well spent and my immigration problems were over with.

The fifth circuit panel ruling that I lacked reasonable cause for missing the deportation hearing is not supported by the facts of instant case. It is an irrefutable fact that the OSC lacked the statutorily required address change notification. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal in their precedent decision; In *Lahmidi v. INS*, 149 F.3d 1011 (9th Cir. 1998), held that "there is reasonable cause for failure to appear when the alien has not received notice of the time and place of the hearing due to a change of address and the alien was not informed of the requirement that he or she advise the INS of such changes."

The Fifth Circuit panel in this ruling has completely departed from the policies and practices of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. As a matter of

fact the methodology and decision making is totally different from recent decisions of this same panel. *See.* Case No. 07-60130, *Komi Adjonke petitioner v. Michael B Mukasey*, U.S. Attorney General, respondent. [unpublished] (Exhibit G [21a]). In that decision all facets of Adjonke's claims were discussed and compared with the Administrative Record. Contrast that with the panel's action in my case where it was said "He also contends that the deportation order is invalid because the hearing notice and the Order to Show Cause failed to advise him of his statutory duty to inform the Government of any change in his address." The panel said nothing about the veracity of my claim but implied by omission that this was not a fact, although a very cursory examination of the Order to Show Cause would prove otherwise.

My Equal Protection Rights implicit in the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution were definitely violated. There was no rational, basis for my case being treated differently than the abovementioned case. His case was also presented Pro Se, the case was decided only one day before instant case. There were no changes in the INA during this time span, and most importantly, the Fifth Circuit panel consists of the same three Judges. *See Brieva-Perez v. Gonzales*, 482 F.3d 356, 362 (5th Cir. 2007).

This panel has turned a blind eye to the BIA's actions in instant case; I have consistently made the argument that the BIA ignored my legal arguments. Such as the lack of advisal in the OSC, the fact that

I did not receive the notice of hearing, the fact that the lawyer on record was disbarred and the legal implications of his disbarment, the fact that I did not receive written or oral notice of the time and place of my deportation hearing, the fact that my I-130 application was approved as the spouse of a U.S.C. (thus an immigrant visa was immediately available), I was ineffectively represented by counsel, my due process rights were violated and my equal protection rights the same.

The BIA disregarded many of its Precedent Decisions, even though it is mandated by its own Precedent and Regulation (8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(g)(5)) to do otherwise. The BIA had incorrectly ruled that my motions were untimely and number barred, citing 8 C.F.R. § 1003.2(c)(2)(2006) (*See* Exhibit H [26a], decisions dated November 13, 2006), only to rule otherwise (*See* Exhibit I [28a]) , decision dated Feb. 6th, 2007, AR pg 000002). It is by definition an abuse of discretion when an Immigration Judge makes an error of law or has considered the wrong factors in applying its discretion, *United States v. Lipscomb*, 299 F.3d 303, 338 (5th Cir. 2002) (quoting *Koon v. United States*, 518 U.S. 81.100(1996).

It is incredulous that this Fifth Circuit panel somehow found nothing arbitrary and capricious in the manner which the BIA adjudicated instant case. Especially in light of In re; *Alicia Reyes- Chavez*, File: A76 961 578-Boston. In one of my motions I presented the same argument (and more), and evidence supporting my claim of non-receipt of the notice of hearing, in the forms of (1) A notarized

affidavit stating non-receipt of the NOH. (averred to under the risk of perjury) (2) Documentary evidence in the form of four envelopes returned to the Immigration Court as undeliverable. (3) Immigration Judge's Memorandum and Order, in which the INS Counsel admits to possession of all mailed notices to Mr. Pena and myself.

Despite the favorable ruling in *Alicia Reyes-Chavez,* my motion was denied, and furthermore it was denied by the same Judge who reopened the aforementioned case. Another obvious violation of my Equal Protection Rights under the Constitution.

The BIA's decision dated November 13, 2006, which denied my motion to reopen and rescind as being untimely and number barred was, definitely incorrect in the law. I did a motion to reconsider, citing *Matter of Cruz-Garcia*, 22 I&N Dec. 1155, 1157 (BIA 1999)," the Board held that the regulation at 8 C.F.R. 1003.2(b)(4)(iii)(1998) imposes no time or numerical limitation on aliens seeking to reopen deportation proceedings conducted *in absentia* pursuant to section 242(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b)."

The BIA judge in his ruling agreed (*see* Exhibit I [28a]), but still denied reopening. This was particularly egregious as this was a motion to reconsider a decision which was incorrect in the law and said motion was unopposed by the INS. Given the fact that the Judge agreed that the previous decision was wrong in the Law, he did not have the discretion to deny reopening. He was bound by the

statutes enacted by Congress. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1229a (c)(6) (2000); 8 C.F.R.1003.2(b) (1) (2002), 'a motion to reconsider deals with errors of fact or law and is supported by pertinent authority' This decision was clearly an abuse of discretion and the Fifth Circuit panel was derelict in its duty in not recognizing and ruling accordingly.

The Fifth Circuit policy and precedent compels reopening instant case. *See* precedent case no. 94-40108, *Jose Luis Rodriquez-Gutierrez, petitioner, versus Immigration and Naturalization Services,* respondent where court ruled proceedings should be reopened where I-130 is approved so adjustment could be adjudicated.

See also Patrick Isi Ikhifa, petitioner, v .INS, respondent Docket No.93-5030. Even though *Ikhifa* was convicted of several felonies. The Fifth Circuit Panel ruled that his motion to reopen should be approved based on his approved I-130, exactly the same fact in instant case, minus the criminality issue.

See also Nihad Rahmon, petitioner v. John Ashcroft, U.S, Attorney General, respondent, Docket no. 02-60226 5th Cir. (Jan. 03, 2003) (Exhibit J [30a]).

It's an obvious abuse of discretion for the BIA to disregard legal arguments relevant and germane to instant case. The BIA was legally bound to follow circuit court precedent in cases arising in the circuit, *Anselmo,* 20 I&N Dec. 25 (1989); *Abdulai v. INS.* 239

F.3d 542)(3rd Cir. 2001)- generally cited. The BIA was also legally bound to follow its own precedents.

Particularly egregious is the BIA ignoring its precedent decision, in the *Matter of Garcia* 16 Interim Dec.653 (BIA 1978),where the BIA stated that "discretion should, as a general rule, be favorably exercised where a prima facie approvable visa petition and adjustment application have been submitted in the course of a deportation proceeding or upon a motion to reopen." This precedent decision highlights the extreme abuse of discretion which was directed at instant case. This precedent demands reopening of deportation proceedings when a prima facie approvable immigrant petition is filed along with an application for adjustment. My motion to reopen was denied even though I had submitted an approved I-130 with my application for adjustment.

The Fifth Circuit panel's citation of 8 U.S.C. § 1305(a) (1986),to deny my petition for review, is exactly the same legal argument the INS argued to the BIA. The BIA in an en banc decision totally rejected this legal argument in 23 I&N Dec. 181 (BIA 2001) (*Matter of In re G-Y-R-, Respondent*).

Despite Fifth Circuit policy that, "we accord deference to the BIA's interpretation of the immigration statute unless there are compelling indications that its interpretation is incorrect". *Faddoul v. INS*, 37 F.3d 185, 186 (5th Cir.1994) (citation omitted), this panel has refused to defer to BIA's interpretation, *In re G-Y-R-, Respondent. See also*, an agency's interpretation of the statutes and

regulations it administers should be given great deference. *See Efe v. Ashcroft*, 293 F.3d 899, 903-04 (5th Cir.2002) (citing *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Def. Council*, 467 U.S. 837 (1984). When reviewing the construction and application of agency regulations, the Court must give "controlling weight" to the agency's interpretation unless it's "plainly erroneous or inconsistent with the regulation." *United States v. Larionoff*, 431 U.S. 864, 872 (1977) (quoting *Bowles v. Seminole Rock & Sand Co.*, 325 U.S. 410,414 (1945)).

The Fifth Circuit panel should be precluded from using this legal premise to deny a petition for review of a BIA's decision based on the principle of *res judicata*. I contend that the Fifth Circuit panel citing of 8 U.S.C. § 1305(a) constitutes a collateral jurisdictional attack on the BIA's past decision and should be barred by *res judicata*.

The panel stated that it was my fault that I did not receive the notice of hearing because I moved without informing the Court. There should be *estopell* of deportation, due to the fact that I should have been warned in the OSC *re* my statutory address change notification obligation. This was specifically mandated by the regulation at 8 C.F.R.§ 1003.15(b)(7)

See Cormil-Rodriquez v. Immigration and Naturalization Services, (1976, CA2) 532 F.2d 301). Where the failure to warn alien that marriage prior to entry would invalidate visa issued to her as a child of U.S. resident, which failure was in violation

of specific duty imposed by 22 C.F.R. § 42.122(d), necessitated reversal of deportation order based on alien's marriage three days prior to entry.

The Fifth Circuit panel correctly points out that I have an obligation to provide the Service with a current address pursuant to the registration requirements of the Act. Virtually every alien in the United States is under an affirmative obligation to report address changes to the Attorney General, regardless of immigration status or circumstances. The statutory consequences of failing to report an address change as required by section 265 (a) include a possible misdemeanor conviction, with a potential fine of up to $200 and not more than 30 days' imprisonment, and placement into removal proceedings pursuant to chapter 4 of Title 8 of the United States Code. *See* Section 266 (b) of the Act. These penalties are not imposed, however, if the alien can demonstrate that the failure to keep his or her address current "was reasonably excusable or was not willful." *Id.*; *see also* Section 237(a)(3)(A) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1227(a)(3)(A) (Supp. V 1999).

Although the failure to comply with section 265 and its surrounding provisions may incur various penalties, the entry of an *in absentia* order of removal is not one of them. *In absentia* orders arise from, and are governed by, section 240(b)(5) of the Act. It is that provision, not any of the registration provisions, that contains the requirements and the legal authority for the entry of an *in absentia* order of removal.

Based on the plain reading of the statute it is obvious that a violation of 8 U.S.C.§ 1305(a) do not authorize the issuance of an *in absentia* deportation order. This Court has opined "We have stated time and again that Courts must presume that a legislature says in a statute what it means and means in a statute what it says there". *Connecticut Nat'l Bank v.Germain*, 503 U.S. 249, 253-54 (1992). *See also United States v. Gonzales*, 520 U.S. 1, 6 (1997), "When the language of the statute is plain, legislative history is irrelevant".

The Fifth Circuit panel relies on *Estrada-Trochez* to support its decision to deny my petition for review. However *Estrada-Trochez* does not control instant case. This case involves actual receipt or non-receipt of the notice of hearing, which is the controlling principle and not constructive notice. While *Estrada-Trochez* is similar in that both cases claimed that the hearing notices were not received, that's where the similarity begins and ends. *Estrada-Troschez* did not involve a case where the alien was not warned in the OSC about his obligation to notify the authorities about any address change. *Estrada-Trochez* did not involve a case where the attorney of record was disbarred. *Estrada-Trochez* claimed that this lack of receipt violated procedural due process, but it is settled law that notice does not have to be actually received to satisfy due process, once the notice is sent via the statutorily prescribed manner. *See Jones v. Flowers*, No. 04-1477,slip op. at 4-5 (U.S.Apr.26,2006) (notice is deemed constitutionally sufficient "if it was reasonably calculated to reach the intended recipient

when sent" and the government "heard nothing back indicating that anything had gone awry"). In my case the Court knew all notices were returned.

Instant case is inapposite, my motion requested rescission based on non receipt of the hearing notice. In its decision the Fifth Circuit panel concluded that I did not receive said notice, but argued, it was my fault because I moved without notifying the authorities. This interpretation is invalid and not in keeping with the Statute. The Statute at [8 U.S.C. 1229a(b)(5)(C)(ii)], which provides that A"[a]n order entered *in absentia* in deportation proceedings may be rescinded only upon a motion to reopen filed...[a]t any time if the alien demonstrates that he or she did not receive notice." There is nothing ambiguous about this statute.

The Fifth Circuit panel concluded that I did not receive the hearing notice, thus the petition for review should have been granted as per the above mentioned statute. "If the intent of Congress is clear, that is the end of the matter, for the Court, as well as the agency, must give effect to the unambiguously expressed intent of Congress." *Chevron, U.S.A. Inc v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.* 467. U.S. 837, 842-43 (1984). Where Congress' intent is clearly enacted in unambiguous language, that language is conclusive. *Negonsott v. Samuels*. .It is well settled that the language of the statute is the starting point of statutory construction. *See INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca*, 480 U.S. 421, 431 (1987). The plain meaning of the words used in the statute as a whole has been held to be the paramount index of

congressional intent. Id. at 431; *Matter of W-F-, Interim Decision* 3288, at 6 (BIA 1996). Moreover, it is assumed that the legislative purpose is expressed by the ordinary meaning of the words used. *INS v. Phinpathya*, 464 U.S. 183, 189 (1984); *see also Matter of Shaar*, interim decision 3290 (BIA 1996), aff'd, 141 F.3d 953 (9th Cir).

CONCLUSION

This deportation proceeding has been adjudicated in an unlawful, arbitrary and capricious manner from day one. After two motions to reopen which were incorrectly denied as being untimely and number barred. I submitted a motion to rescind and reopen to the Immigration Judge based on the statute. Any *in absentia* order made under I.N.A. §§ 242 (b)(1) [8 U.S.C.S. § 1252(b)(2)] and 242 B (c)(1) [8 U.S.C.S. § 1252 b (c) (1), may only be rescinded by filing a motion to reopen with the Immigration Judge; the alien may take an appeal to the BIA if the motion to reopen is denied by the Immigration Judge. *In re Gonzalez-Lopez* (1993 BIA) 20 I&N Dec. 644. The motion was returned stating that jurisdiction was with the BIA. (*See* Exhibit K [33a]).

The BIA and the Fifth Circuit panel exceeded its discretion by failing to consider all circumstances that I provided to rebut presumption that I had absconded and deliberately avoided the scheduled deportation hearing. The BIA and Fifth Circuit panel failed to consider three facts that weighed in

my favor, first by filing application for Alien Labor Certification [filed 09/02/1987 approved 08/08/1989] (*see* Exhibit L [42a]). I initiated proceedings to obtain benefit which made it less likely that I would simply ignore later immigration proceeding of which I had notice, secondly, by providing recent photograph and current address in the Labor Certification application I had done something to indicate that I was not an absconder, lastly, I disclosed the order of deportation when I filed motion to reopen in an effort to adjust status to Legal Permanent Resident on Dec, 19, 2002. (*See* Exhibit L [42a]). *See Silva-Carvalho Lopez v. Gonzales* (2006, CA2) 468 F.3d 81.

This Fifth Circuit panel's denial of my petition for review is based on the fact that I moved without informing the authorities, yet this information is exactly what the advisal in the OSC was statutorily required to contain and did not do so. This is not only unlawful as evidenced by the BIA's decision in its en banc decision in, [In re G-Y-R-, Respondent] 23 I&N Dec. 181 (BIA 2001). It is patently unfair.

This Court has opined that "Deportation proceedings involve the potential deprivation of a significant liberty interest and must be conducted according to the principle of fundamental fairness and substantial justice" *See Landon v. Plasencia,* 459 U.S. 21, 34-35 (1982); *Goldberg v. Kelly,* 397 U.S. 254 (1970); *Bridges v. Wixon,* 326 U.S. 135, 154 (1945) (stating that deportation "visits a great hardship on the individual.....Meticulous care must be exercised lest the procedure by which he is deprived of that liberty not meet the essential

standard of fairness."); *see also INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca*, 480 U. S. 421, 449 (1987); *Harislades v. Shaughnessey*, 342 U. S. 580 (1952); *Ng Fung Ho v. White*, 259 U.S. 276, 284 (1922).

The Fifth Circuit panel did not contest the fact that I did not receive the hearing notice but rather claimed that the lack of receipt was my fault because I moved without informing the Courts. This was an invalid interpretation of the statute. Congress did not condition rescission on whether or not the alien was at fault for not receiving the hearing notice. Congress was fully capable of doing so if that was its intent. See fifth circuit n, Case no.02-60409 (unpublished) *Oscar Manuel Guzma petitioner, v. INS, respondent* (end of first paragraph)," If that were Congress's intent . . . the statute that mandates entry of an *in absentia* order when an alien fails to appear would presumably contain such an exception."

This panel has misinterpreted the above-mentioned statute, the controlling issue is receipt or non-receipt of the hearing notice, unlike *Estrada-Trochez* where Appellant moved to re-open the 1987 deportation proceeding, asserting that he was denied procedural due process because neither he nor his attorney of record received notice of the deportation hearing. To satisfy procedural due process the controlling issue is proper service of the hearing notice. Two completely different situations. The fact that the notice was served and may have satisfied the notice requirement does not necessarily mean that the hearing notice was received. This panel in

its ruling confirmed the fact that the notice was not received. Thus rescission was authorized as per the statute at [8U.S.C. 1229a (b)(5)(C)(ii)].

Combining 8 U.S.C. § 1305(a)(1986) with *United States v. Estrada-Trochez*, 66 F.3d 773,735 (5th Cir.1995) was an adroit but futile and legally impermissible attempt to mold the statute towards the panel's decision. There is no nexus between the combination and the authority to deport *in absentia*. The penalty for a breach of the former does not include an *in absentia* deportation ruling and the latter is inapplicable to instant case as the statute clearly states that "rescission is authorized once lack of receipt of notice is established." This panel's decision would effectively read [8 U.S.C. 1229a (b)(5)(C)(ii)],out of the INA.

This decision would effectively separate and destroy our family. My wife and daughter are United States Citizens, the former by naturalization and the latter by birth. My daughter is a special needs child (*see* Exhibit M [44m]). If deported, I would have no choice but to leave my family behind, as the various therapies which my daughter receives which have been extremely beneficial would not be readily available in Jamaica.

My wife is experiencing extreme financial difficulties; bills are being paid later and later every month. Her credit score is borderline and heading in the wrong direction. Our daughter recently had a cough which she could not shake and we are convinced that this was due to the fact that we could

not afford to heat the house as usual due to the fact that we had to ration our oil usage. As a matter of fact we ran out of oil three times this winter. This is particularly alarming considering the fact that our daughter is already predisposed to respiratory distress syndrome (*see* Exhibit M [44a]). Even though my wife earns a fairly decent salary as a registered nurse, my financial contribution is still needed. At the moment my contribution is limited to taking care of the baby and supervising the trucking operation.

We own a small trucking outfit, there were two trucks but one was recently repossessed due to the extreme shortage of CDL drivers. I am unable to work because my class A license has been suspended for lack of a valid social security number. This has adversely affected our cash flow as the salaries to retain qualified drivers are very high.

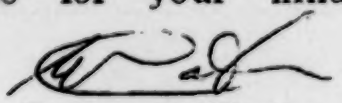
It's a travesty of justice that I am facing deportation, my wife of twelve years and my six years plus old daughter are living under adverse conditions due in large part to the obviously incorrect rulings from the BIA and this Fifth Circuit panel.

Currently we are facing the possibility of foreclosure on one of our houses. The ARM has been adjusted on both mortgages and things are not looking good, and to compound our situation, we have a problem tenant, (in eviction proceedings). If I had my license, and authorized to work, we could very easily manage our financial affairs.

The relief I'm seeking, due to the obvious incorrectness in the law, is for this Court to direct the Fifth Circuit Court to grant the petition for review, rescind the deportation order and allow the adjudication of my adjustment application. Appellate Court has authority to reverse immigration judge's decision without remanding matter for further adjudication if matter on appeal presented manifest error of law and no further fact finding was required. *Ghedbremedhin v. Ashcroft,* (2004 CA7) 392 F.3d 241.

Additionally, deportation proceedings may be terminated as "Improvidently begun" even after deportation hearing has proceeded to formal conclusion and deportation order has been entered (decided under former 8 U.S.C.S. § 1252) *In re Vizcara-Delgado,* (BIA 1968) 13 I&N Dec. 51.

I trust and hope your decision will be favorable, Thanks in advance for your kind consideration.



Robert R. Watson.

APPENDIX

Opinion, Order of the Fifth Circuit of Appeals, filed, November 29th, 2007, denied petition for review. With a citation of 8 U.S.C.§ 1305(a) (1986) and stating "Notice of Watson's deportation hearing was properly mailed to his last known address, citing *United States v. Estrada-Trochez*, 66 F.3d 733, 735-736 (5th Cir. 1995) The notices were returned as undeliverable, however, because Watson moved without providing a forwarding address Watson has not shown any error in the BIA's determination that lack of notice under the circumstances, does not constitute reasonable cause for failure to appear.

(i) Petition for rehearing was denied on January 25th, 2008.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 06-60319

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS
FILED
JAN 25 2008
CHARLES R. FULBRUGE III
CLERK

ROBERT RANDALL WATSON

Petitioner

v.

MICHAEL B MUKASEY, U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

Respondent

- -

Petitions for Review of an Order of the Board of Immigration Appeals

- -

ON PETITION FOR REHEARING

Before King, Davis, and Clement, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:

IT IS ORDERED that the petition for rehearing is denied.

Entered for the Court:

EPClement

United States Circuit Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

United States court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit
FILED
November 29,2007
Charles R. Fulbruge
Clerk

No. 06-60319
Summary Calendar

Ill

ROBERT RANDALL WATSON

Petitioner

v.

MICHAEL B MUKASEY, U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

Respondent

Petition for Review of an Order of the Board of Immigration Appeals
BIA No. A28 319 026

Before KING, DAVIS, and CLEMENT, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:[1]

Robert Randall Watson, a native and citizen of Jamaica, has filed three petitions for review of the Board of Immigration Appeals' (BIA) orders dismissing his motions to reopen and reconsider the

[1] Pursuant to 5TH CIR. R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.4.

1988 deportation proceedings that resulted in an order of deportation being entered *in absentia* against him. Watson seeks to reopen the proceedings so that he can apply for adjustment of status to a lawful permanent resident based on being the beneficiary of an I-130 relative visa petition, which was filed on behalf of his United States citizen wife. Watson contends that he did not receive notice of the deportation hearing due to his counsel's ineffectiveness. He also contends that the deportation order is invalid because the hearing notice and the Order to Show Cause failed to advise him of his statutory duty to inform the Government of any change in his address.

The BIA's denial of an appeal and its denial of a motion to reconsider are two separate final orders, each of which require their own petitons for review. *Stone v. I.N.S.*, 514 U.S. 386, 394 (1995). An alien must file his petition for review "not later than 30 days after the date of the order of final removal." 8 U.S.C. §1252(b)(1). A timely petition for review is a jurisdictional requirement, and the lack thereof deprives this court of jurisdiction to review a decision of the BIA. § 1252(a)(5); *Karimian-Kaklaki v. I.N.S.*, 997 F.2D 108, 111 (5th Cir. 1993). In the instant case, Watson file dtimely petitons for review from the BIA's March 22, 2006 and November 13, 2006 decisions. However, he did not file a timely petition for review from the BIA's February 6, 2007 decision. Accordingly this court is without jurisdiction to review that petition for review. *See Karimian-Kaklaki*, 997 F.2d at 111.

Watson had an obligation to notify the Attorney General of any changes to his address. 8 U.S.C. § 1305(a) (1986). Notice of Watson's deportation hearing was properly mailed to his last known address. *See United States v. Estrada-Trochez*, 66 F.3d 733, 735-36 (5th Cir. 1995). The notice was returned as undeliverable, however, because Watson moved without providing a forwarding address. Watson has not shown any error in the BIA's determination that lack of notice, under these circumstances, does not constitute reasonable cause for failure to appear. *Id.* At 736. Consequently, Watson has failed to demonstrate that the BIA abused its discretion in denying his motions to reopen and reconsider. *See Lara v. Trominski*, 216 F.3d 487, 496 (5th Cir. 2000).

Accordingly his petitions for review are DENIED in part and DISMISSED in part for lack jurisdiction. His motion to amend his reply brief is DENIED as moot.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Immigration and Naturalization Service

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE, NOTICE OF HEARING, AND WARRANT FOR ARREST OF ALIEN

In Deportation Proceedings under Section 242 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

File No. A28 319 026

In the Matter of Robert Randall Watson
120 East 18th Street, Apt. 1N
Brooklyn, New York, N.Y. 11226
Respondent.

Address (number, street, city, state, and ZIP code)

UPON inquiry conducted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, it is alleged that:

1. You are not a citizen or national of the United States;
2. You are a native of Jamaica and a citizen of Jamaica;
3. You entered the United States near Los Ebanos, Texas on or about June 30, 1986;
4. You were not then inspected by an Immigration officer.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

AND on the basis of the foregoing allegations, it is charged that you are subject to deportation, pursuant to the following provision(s) of law:
Section 241 (a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, in that you entered the United States without inspection.

WHEREFORE YOU ARE ORDERED to appear for hearing before an Immigration Judge of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the United States Department of Justice at _____on TO BE SET at_____m, and show cause why you should not be deported from the United Sates on the charge(s) set forth above.

WARRANT FOR ARREST OF ALIEN

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the immigration laws of the United States and the regulations issued pursuant thereto, I have commanded that you be taken into custody for proceedings thereafter in accordance with the applicable provisions of the immigration laws and regulations, and this order shall serve as a warrant to any Immigration Officer to take you into custody. The conditions for your detention or release are set on the reverse hereof.

Dated: July 1, 1986
10:00am

se are set on otherwise hereof.

(signature and title of issuing officer)

David G. Turner, Jr.
Deputy District Director

Harlingen, Texas (City and State) 78551

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT

ANY STATEMENT YOU MAKE MAY BE USED AGAINST YOU IN DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS

THE COPY OF THIS ORDER SERVED UPON YOU IS EVIDENCE OF YOUR ALIEN REGISTRATION WHILE YOU ARE UNDER DEPORATION PROCEEDINGS, THE LAW REQUIRES THAT IT BE CARRIED WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES

If you so choose, you may be represented in this proceeding at no expense to the Government, by an attorney or other individual authorized and qualified to represent persons before the Immigration and Naturalization Service. You should bring with you any affidavits or other documents which you desire to have considered in connection with your case. If any document is in a foreign language, you should bring the original and certified translation thereof. If you wish to have the testimony of any witness considered, you should arrange to have such witnesses present at the hearing.

At your hearing you will be given the opportunity to admit or deny any or all of the allegations in the Order to Show Cause and that you are deportable on the charge set forth therein. You will have an opportunity to present evidence on your own behalf, to examine any evidence presented by the Government, to object, on proper legal grounds, to the receipt of evidence and to cross examine any witnesses presented by the Government. Failure to attend the hearing at the time and place designated

hereon my result in a determination being made by the Immigration Judge in your absence.

You will be advised by the Immigration Judge, before whom you appear, of any relief from deportation for which you may appeal eligible. You will be given reasonable opportunity to make any such application to the Immigration Judge.

NOTICE OF CUSTODY DETERMINATION

Pursuant to the authority of Part 242.2, Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, the authorized officer has determined that pending a final determination of deportability in your case, and, in the event you are ordered deported, until your departure from the United States is effected, but not to exceed six months from the date of the final order of deportation under administrative processes, or from the date of the final order of the court, if judicial review is had, you shall be:

☐ Detained in the custody of this Service.
☑ Released on recognizance.
☐ Released under bond in the amount of $__

You may request the Immigration Judge to redetermine this decision.

☐ I do ☐do not request a redetermination by an Immigration Judge of the custody decision.

_____ _____
(signature of respondent) (date)

REQUEST FOR PROMPT HEARING

To expedite determination of my case, I request an immediate hearing, and waive any right I may have to more extended notice.

(signature of respondent) (date)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Served by me at McAllen, Texas on July 1 19 86 at 1031 a m.

Personal Service BDA
(signature and title of employee or officer)

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

MEMO TO FILE BY JUDGE,
RE: NOTICE TO RESPONDENT DATE:2-3-88

Case No. A28-319-026 NAME WATSON, ROBT.

THE ITEMS CHECKED BELOW APPLY
TO THIS CASE:

_____ Notice was sent to Respondent at his last known address as Respondent's counsel of record, Gil Garza, was disbarred by the Texas Supreme Court in summer, 1987 and can no longer practice law.

_✓_ Notice was sent to Respondent at his last known address as Respondent's counsel of record, Librado Pena, was disbarred by the Texas Supreme Court in September, 1987, as the Court learned in January, 1988. Prior to Librado Pena's actual disbarment, the Court had for many months sent notice in duplicate, to him and to his clients, as notices to Pena were being consistently returned by the post office with notations that he had moved without leaving a forwarding address

____ In response to inquiry by the Court, the Trial Attorney for I.N.S. has advised the Court that Respondent was released on his own recognizance by I.N.S., subject to the condition that he not depart from the Harlingen I.N.S. District without obtaining permission from the District Director (or posting a bond). As the Trial Attorney has no record that Respondent ever received permission or posted such a bond, and there is no indication that Respondent

left this District without authorization, and the address which I.N.S. has provided to the Court for notice to Respondent is outside this District, the Court will assume that Respondent is still prevented by I.N.S. from traveling to the place to which notice would be sent, and on that basis the court will not enter an order adverse to Respondent, or assume that Respondent has actual notice of hearings in this case.

_____ On this date the Trial Attorney for I.N.S. has advised the Court that the following address appears to be the best address for notice to Respondent

Address_____

_____Source_____

_____ Other _____

Texas Bar Journal January 1988
Vol. 51 No. 1

Disciplinary Actions

Disbarments

Richard Flume, Jr., of San Antonio, was disbarred by judgment of the 37th Judicial District Court of Bexar County on Sept. 4, 1987. The court found Flume engaged in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, handled legal matters without adequate preparation, willfully or intentionally neglected legal matters entrusted to him, intentionally failed to seek the lawful objectives of clients, intentionally failed to carry out contracts of employment, and intentionally prejudiced or damaged clients during the course of the professional responsibility.

The 200th Judicial District Court of Travis County disbarred Charles Hoehne, attorney of Travis County, by default judgment entered on Sept. 9, 1987. The court found Hoehne willfully or intentionally neglected legal matters entrusted to him by clients, and intentionally failed to carry out contracts of employment entered into with clients for professional services. Hoehne also failed to promptly pay or deliver to a client as requested by the client the funds, securities, or other properties in his possession which the client was entitled to received and then failed to furnish information requested by a grievance committee or assort grounds for failure to do so.

The 11th Judicial District Court of Harris County entered a judgment of disbarment of Jose Medina, a Houston attorney, on Aug. 31, 1987. The court found Medina violated Disciplinary Rules 1-102 (A)(4), (5), and (6); 6-101 (A)(1), (2), and (3); 7-101 (A)(1), (2), and (3); and 9-102 (B)(9), as well as Article X, Sections 7(4) and (7) of all the State Bar Rules.

Librado Pena, an attorney of Webb County, was disbarred by Judgment Nihil Dicit of the 11th Judicial District Court of Webb County. The court found Pena received money from numberous clients and failed to provide the legal services for which he was retained. The court further found Pena failed to furnish information requested by a grievance committee in its investigation of complaints filed against him and failed to appear to testify before the committee, though subpoenaed to do so. The court signed the judgment on Sept. 29, 1987.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW IMMIGRATION COURT
201 EAST JACKSON STREET
HARLINGEN, TEXAS 78550

IN THE MATTER OF:
ROBERT RANDALL WATSON)
)
RESPONDENT)
) CASE NO. A28 319 026
IN DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS)

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

On November 26, 2002, Respondent, through his counsel of record Eunice Becker, filed a motion to reopen his deportation proceeding. The deportation order was issued in this case on February 5, 1988 based upon a deportation hearing held on February 3, 1988. The Immigration Service has filed a response in Opposition to the motion to reopen.

On July 11, 1986, Respondent filed his "Affidavit" with the Court in this deportation proceeding (Exh. #2). In that affidavit, Respondent admitted "the allegations and deportability of the Order To Show Cause". In addition, in that affidavit, Respondent states: "Country I request to be deported to: Jamaica". Respondent further states in the affidavit that the relief requested is a change of venue to New York, N.Y. and that his address is "130 East 18th St., Apt. 1N, Brooklin, New York 11226". In the affidavit, Respondent did not request any

relief from deportation pursuant to any provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), and he did not file any application for relief from deportation, On July 11, 1986, there was also a Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative (for G-28) filed with the Court n this proceeding by attorney Librado Pena.

On December 9, 1987, this Court sent a hearing notice to counsel of record Mr. Pena (Exh. #3) at the address Mr. Pena had informed the Court was his new address as of September 3, 1986 (see copy of letter attached as Appendix 1). The hearing notice sent to Mr. Pena for Respondent's February 3, 1988 deportation hearing was returned to this Court by the United States Postal Service as undeliverable with the notation "moved left no address" (Exh.#6). As reported in the Texas Bar Journal in January 1988, Mr. Pena was disbarred in the State of Texas by a court judgment signed on September 29, 1987 (copy of Bar Journal page attached as Appendix 2). See also Exh. #5.

The Court also sent respondent a hearing notice for his February 3, 1988 hearing (Exh. #3). This hearing notice was sent to Respondent at the address provided in his affidavit, and it was returned to this Court by the United States Postal Service as undeliverable with the notation "moved-not forwardable" (Exh. #7). It is noted that the deportation order sent to Respondent at the same address was also returned to this Court by the United States Postal Service as undeliverable for the same reason.

Respondent did not appear at his deportation hearing scheduled for and held on February 3, 1988. On February 5, 1988, the Court issued an order that Respondent had abandoned any claim for relief from deportation by his failure to appear at his February 3, 1988 hearing, and the Court ordered that Respondent be deported to Jamaica.

In his affidavit submitted with the motion to reopen, Respondent states that, upon being released from custody by the Immigration Service on July 2, 1986, he went o the New York area to reside and he has resided there since that time. In the affidavit, Respondent also states that he never received any notice of his hearing date and that he did not know when to appear. In the motion to reopen, Respondent does not state the address or addresses where he actually resided or received his mail in New York on or before February 3, 1988. Respondent also has not shown, or even contended, that he advised this Court or the Immigration Service of any change of address for him on or before February 3, 1988.

The Court concludes that this Court sent proper notice to Respondent fro his February 3, 1988 deportation hearing. A notice of hearing was sent to Respondent's attorney of record at counsel's last known address. A notice of hearing was also sent to Respondent at his last known address. Respondent has not shown that he was not provided with proper notice of his February 3, 1988 deportation hearing, and he has not demonstrated that he had reasonable cause for his failure to appear at the hearing. See Matter of Cruz-Garcia, 22 I & N Dec. 1155 (BIA

1999); Matter of Mancera, 22 I & N Dec. 79 (BIA 1998).

In the motion to reopen, respondent requests reopening in order to apply for adjustment of status pursuant to Section 245(i) of the Act. In his affidavit submitted with the motion to reopen, Respondent appears to be requesting voluntary departure under Section 244(e) of the Act (as in effect before April 1, 1997) because he states that he has the funds to pay for his ticket "home", and he will depart as permitted. The Court concludes that the motion to reopen to apply for adjustment of status and/or volumtary departure is untimely because it was not filed by September 30, 1996. See 8 C.F.R. 3.23(b)(1); Matter of Cruz-Garcia, supra, at 1160.

WHEREFORE, it is hereby Ordered that Respondent's motion to reopen be denied.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2003.

Howard Achtsam

HOWARD ACHTSAM
IMMGRATION JUDGE

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Notice of Action

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Receipt Number / Case Type I130
EAC-97-152-53052 /Immigrant Petition for Relative, Fiance (e), or Orphan

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Receipt Date /Priority Date / Petitioner A44 141 790
May 14, 1997/March 31, 1997/Fuller Watson,Vena C.

Notice Date / Page / Beneficiary
June 17, 2003 / 1 of 1 / Watson, Robert R.

Vena C. Fuller Watson /Notice type:
195-14 Hollis Avenue /Amended Approval Notice
Saint Albans, NY 11412 /Section: Husband or wife of U.S. Citizen, 201(b) INA

Courtesy Copy: Original sent to : Becker, Eunice

This courtesy notice is to advise you of action taken on this case. The official notice has been mailed to the attorney or representative indicated above. Any relevant documentation included in the notice was also mailed as part of the official notice.

The above entitled has been approved. The petition indicates that the person for whom you are petitioning is in the United States and will apply for

adjustment of status. He or she should contact the local INS office to obtain Form I-485, Application for Permanent Residence. A copy of this notice should be submitted with the application.

If the person for whom you are petitioner decides to apply for a visa outside the United States based on this petition, the petitioner should file Form I-824, Application for Action on an Approved Application or Petition, with this office to request that we send the petition to the Department of State National Visa Center (NVC).

The NVC processes all approved immigrant visa petitions that require consular action. The NVC also determines which consular post is the appropriate consulate to complete visa processing. It will then forward the approved petition to that consulate.

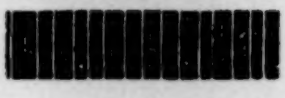
This courtesy copy may not be used in lieu of official notification to demonstrate the filing or processing action taken on this case.

THIS FORM IS NOT A VISA NOR MAY IT BE USED IN PLACE OF A VISA.

Please see the additional information on the back. You will be notified separately about any other cases you filed.

IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE
VERMONT SERVICE CENTER
75 LOWER WELDEN STREET
SAINT ALBANS, VT 05479-0001

Customer Service Telephone: (800) 375-5283



IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 07-60130
Summary Calendar

KOMI ADJONKE
Petitioner

v.
MICHAEL B MUKASEY, US ATTORNEY GENERAL
Respondent

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED

November 28, 2007

Charles R. Fulbruge III
Clerk

Petition for Review of an Order of the
Board of Immigration Appeals
BIA No. A97 187 242

Before KING, DAVIS, and CLEMENT, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Togolese citizen Komi Adjonke petitions for review of the order of the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) that affirmed the decision of the Immigration Judge (IJ), to the extent that the IJ determined that Adjonke was not entitled to asylum, withholding of removal, or relief pursuant to the Convention Against Torture (CAT). Adjonke moves for leave to proceed in forma pauperis (IFP) on appeal and for appointment of counsel; those motions are denied.

No. 07-60130

Adjonke, who is proceeding pro se, contends that the IJ was biased against him and treated him unprofessionally. Adjonke did not raise his contention before the BIA and this court lacks jurisdiction to consider it. See Wang v. Ashcroft, 260 F.3d 448, 452-53 (5th Cir. 2001).

Adjonke challenges the IJ's credibility determinations, including the credibility determination based on a letter from the State Department indicating that nobody from two Togolese organizations had heard of Adjonke. The BIA adopted the IJ's decision only to the extent that the IJ determined Adjonke had failed to show his

*Pursuant to 5TH CIR. R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR.R. 47.5.4.

eligibility for relief; it did not adopt the IJ's credibility determinations. This court need not address the IJ's credibility determinations. See Mikhael v. INS, 115 F.3d 299, 303 (5th Cir. 1997). Moreover, the BIA did not consider the State Department letter; Adjonke's contention regarding the letter is moot.

Adjonke contents that the BIA erred by finding that he was not eligible for asylum, withholding of removal, or relief under the CAT. He argues that the facts of his case indicate that he was persecuted on account of his political beliefs and had a reasonable fear of persecution on return to Togo and that he satisfies the criteria for CAT relief. We will uphold the BIA's factual finding that an alien is not eligible for asylum if it is supported by substantial evidence. Chun v. INS, 40 F.3d 76, 78 (5th Cir. 1994). "This Court reviews factual findings to determine if they are supported by substantial evidence in the record." Roy v. Ashcroft, 389 F.3d 132, 138 (5th Cir. 2004).

We generally review the BIA's decisions "procedurally" to ensure that the complaining alien has received full and fair consideration of all circumstances that give rise to his or her claims." Abdel-Maseih v. INS, 73 F.3d 579, 585 (5th Cir. 1996). The BIA is not required to "address evidentiary minutiae or write any lengthy exegesis, [but] its decision must reflect meaningful consideration of the relevant substantial evidence supporting the alien's claims." Id.

No. 07-60130

The BIA does not indicate the evidentiary basis for its decision, other than to state that the IJ's decision set forth the facts asserted by Adjonke.

The IJ provided a brief of Adjonke's allegations and the testimony at his hearing and summarized some of the other evidence in the record. However, the IJ's decision was largely devoted to credibility determinations, and it did not mention much of the evidence in the record that appears to support Adjonke's claims. Neither the IJ nor the BIA discussed letter from Togolese opposition leaders appearing to bolster Adjonke's allegations regarding his position in the Togolese opposition movement. Moreover, neither the IJ nor the BIA discussed an Amnesty International report and other material in the record indicating that the political situation deteriorated markedly in 2005, an omission that is particularly noteworthy in light of the IJ's finding that the situation in Togo had improved somewhat in 2004. We are not convinced that Adjonke received full and fair consideration of the circumstances giving rise to his claims. See Abdel-Maseih, 73 F.3d at 585.

If Adjonke's allegations and all of the the evidence he provided are considered, and if they prove true, then it is conceivable that he can prove his asylum claim. It is possible that Adjonke suffered past persecution on account of his political views, see Adebisi v. INS, 952 F.2d 910, 913-14 (5th Cir. 1992), or that a reasonable person in the same circumstances would fear persecution if deported.

Jukie v. INS, 40 F.3d 747, 749 (5th Cir. 1994). We remand Adjonke's case to the BIA for a more thorough and complete examination of Adjonke's claims.

PETITON GRANTED; VACATED AND REMANDED; IFP MOTION DENIED; APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL DENIED.

U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
Decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: A28 319 026 – Harlingen Date: NOV 13 2006

In re: ROBERT RANDALL WATSON

IN DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS

MOTION

ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT: Pro se

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Sean D. Clancy
Assistant Chief Counsel

APPLICATION: Reopening

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. The respondent filed a motion to reopen on August 14, 2006. This case was last before us on March 22, 2006, when we denied the respondent's motion to reconsider our denial of his motion to reopen which we denied on November 10, 2005. We also denied a previous motion to reopen on March 4, 2005. On April 26, 2004, we dismissed the respondent's appeal of the Immigration Judge's denial of his motion to reopen deportation proceedings, which were conducted in absentia. The

Department of Homeland Security opposes the pending motion, which will be denied.

The respondent was ordered removed in absentia on February 5, 1988, and filed a motion to reopen with the Immigration Judge on November 26, 2002, more than 14 years later. In his current motion, the respondent makes essentially the same claims that were considered, and rejected, by the Board in our previous orders, which are incorporated herein by reference. The pending motion is both untimely and number barred, as his fourth motion to reopen. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.2(c)(2) (2006). Further, no exceptions to, or equitable tolling of, the time restrictions for motion to reopen apply in the respondent's case. *See id.*; prior BIA Orders dated March 22, 2006, November 10, 2005, March 4, 2005, and April 26, 2004. Finally, we find that there is no basis to sua sponte reopen these proceedings. *See Matter of J-J-*, 21 I&N Dec. 976 (BIA 1997). Given the multiple and repetitive filings of meritless motions, we will also deny the motion in the exercise of discretion. Accordingly, the pending motion is denied.

FOR THE BOARD

U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
Decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: A28 319 026 – Harlingen Date: FEB - 6 2007

In re: ROBERT RANDALL WATSON

IN DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS

MOTION

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On February 5, 1988, and Immigration Judge issued a decision ordering the respondent deported after he failed to appear at a scheduled hearing. Fourteen years later, on November 26, 2002, the respondent filed a motion to reopen with the Immigration Judge, which was denied on January 27, 2003. The Board dismissed the respondent's appeal on April 26, 2004, agreeing with the Immigration Judge that the respondent failed to show reasonable cause for his failure to appear at the deportation hearing. We then denied 4 motions filed by the respondent. The respondent has now filed a motion to reconsider our latest decision of November 13, 2006. The Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS," formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service) has not responded to the pending motion, which will be denied.

In *Matter of Cruz-Garcia*, 22 I&N Dec. 1155, 11557 (BIA 1999), the Board held that the regulation at 8 C.F.R. §1003.2(b)(4)(iii) (1998) imposes no time or numerical limitation on aliens seeking to reopen deportation proceedings conducted *in absentia* pursuant to section 242(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b).[1] However, a decision to grant a motion to reopen is discretionary. *Matter of H-A-*, 22 I&N Dec. 728, 734 (BIA 1999); *Matter of Barrera*, 19 I&N Dec. 837, 844 (BIA 1989) ("An application to reopen is addresses to the sound discretion of the Attorney General.... a motion can be denied in discretionary grounds alone where there are significant grounds for denying reopening").

The respondent contended, in his motion presented to the Immigration Judge, that he had not received notice of the deportation hearing. The Immigration Judge, as noted, denied the motion, and we affirmed his decision, and thereafter denied 4 previous motions. Given the fact that the respondent's claims have already been addresses, we find it inappropriate to grant the pending motion, and it is, therefore, denied.

FOR THE BOARD

[1] The Board therefore acknowledges that its statement in the November 13, 2006, decision, that the motion was untimely and number-barred, was incorrect.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 02 – 60226
Summary Calendar

NIHAD RAHMOUN,

Petitioner,

v.

JOHN ASHCROFT, U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL,

Respondent.

- -

Petition for Review of an Order of the
Board of Immigration Appeals
BIA No. A76-955-431

- -

January 3, 2003

Before BARKSDALE, DeMOSS, AND BENAVIDES, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:

Nihad Rahmoun petitions for review of the final order of the Board of Immigration Appeals dismissing his appeal from the Immigration Judge's order denying his motion to reopen deportation proceedings. He argues that the Board of Immigration Appeals erred in finding that his motion to reopen was untimely.

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* Pursuant to 5TH CIR. R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.4.

Since the Board of Immigration Appeals conducted a review of the record and did not adopt the decision of the Immigration Judge in this matter, review is limited to the Board of Immigration Appeal's decision. *See Carbajal-Gonzales v. INS*, 78 F.3d 194, 197 (5th Cir. 1996). This court conducts a *de novo* review of the Board of Immigration Appeals's legal rulings, but will defer to the Board of Immigration Appeals's interpretation of immigration regulations if the interpretation is reasonable. *Lopez-Gomez v. Ashcroft*, 263 F.3d 442, 444 (5th Cir. 2001).

The Immigration Judge's authority to reopen is by regulation. Specifically, 8 C.F.R. § 3.23, entitles "Reopening or Reconsideration Before the Immigration Court," provides that an Immigration Judge "may upon his or her own motion at any time... reopen or reconsider any case in which he or she has made a decision." The Board of Immigration Appeals, in failing to rule on the Immigration Judge's findings with regard to the motion and in finding that Rahmoun's motion was untimely, effectively read out of 8 C.F.R. § 3.23 the Immigration Judge's inherent power to *sua sponte* reopen an immigration proceeding at any time. Such a reading of 8 C.F.R. § 3.23 is unreasonable. *Lopez-Gomez*, 263 F.3d at 444. Accordingly, Rahoum's petition for review is GRANTED and the matter is VACATED and REMANDED to the Board of Immigration Appeals so the Board of Immigration Appeals can address whether the Immigration Judge erred in failing to *sua sponte* reopen the immigration proceeding on the grounds advanced by Rahmoun.

PETITION FOR REVIEW GRANTED; VACATED AND REMANDED.

U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
Immigration Court
201 E. Jackson
Harlingen, Texas 78550
Phone: (956) 427-8582

RE: A 28-319-026

Name: Robert Randall Watson

Address: 195-14 Hollis Avenue

City: St. Albans, NY 11412

Date: August 5, 2005
Certified Mail
#7160 3901 9841 35633 5645

Receipt of Document(s) Cancelled and Returned

Any receipt is cancelled and the following written material is returned, as checked below:

□ Form EOIR 28; Application Form: □ EOIR 40
□ EOIR 42A □ EOIR 42B □ EOIR_____
Application Form: □ I-191 □ I-485 □ I-589 □ I-601
□ I-864 □ I-_____
□ Letter □ Supporting Documents □ Other_____
Motion to: □ administratively close □ abandon relief
□ change venue □ continue □ consolidate □ extend
□ recalendar ☑ reconsider/reopen □ stay
□ stipulate □ substitute □ telephonic hearing

□ terminate □ waive appearance □ waive filing fee
□ withdraw □ _____

Reason(s) for Cancellation and Return

Cancellation and return is made for the reason(s) checked below. Follow the referenced regulation and any instructions carefully. Resubmitted documents *must* be re-served.

□ Correspondence was filed with the wrong Immigration Court. Administrative control (custodial responsibility) is with the Immigration Court in _____, and all documents and correspondence must go to that Court.
□ Alien's A-number is not on the document, or it is incorrect.
□ Charging document has not been filed by DHS with this Court.
□ Records regarding the case have not been located under the alien's name and A-number provided.
□ Voluminous exhibits are not indexed, paginated, and accompanied by a table of contents.

□ Document(s) not properly on 8 ½" x 11" size paper.
□ Facsimile (fax) was not authorized.
□ Case is currently closed.
□ Foreign language document was not accompanied by a certified English translation.
□ Motion for change of venue cannot be considered without identification of a fixed street address where respondent may be reached for further hearing notifications.

☐ Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative Before the Immigration Court (Form EOIR-28) was not submitted or is incomplete.
☐ Payment of the filing fee, to DHS before filing documents, is not proven; alternatively, there is no written "Fee Waiver Request" accompanied by the alien's affidavit or declaration.
☐ Service of the submitted document(s) on the opposing party is incomplete or improper. If serving the DHS by mail to: District Counsel, DHS, P.O. Box 1711, Harlingen, TX 78551; If serving by overnight express service to: District Counsel DHS, 1709 Zoy Street, Harlingen, TX 78552.
☐ File was received following a Motion to Change Venue where the Order of the Immigration Judge does not comply with OPPM 01-02.
☑ Other: Jurisdiction is with Board of Immigration Appeals.

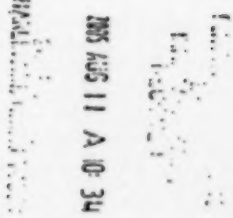
Money order must be paid to DHS.

Celeste Garza
Court Administrator

Sent by: Robert Bernal
Clerk

Attachment
Money order must be paid to DHS

Robert R. Watson
195-14 Hollis Ave
St. Albans
New York 11412



Re: A 28319-026

To: Ms. Celeste Garza.

Court Administrator

Hello Ms. Garza, this is a continuation of our conversation on 08/09/2005. I had submitted a motion to Rescind, Reconsider and Reopen and order of deportation entered in absentia by an Immigration Judge. You returned the motion to me with the notation . "Jurisdiction is with the Board of Immigration Appeals."
I beg to disagree and I have enclosed documents which reflect my opinion. Even though I figured my interpretation of the relevant statutes was correct I followed your directive and sent the Motion to the B.I.A., but the Federal Regulations states that where an order of deportation is issued in absentia there is

no direct appeal with the B.I.A. The motion to reopen must be with the Immigration Judge and then one can appeal the Immigration Judge's decision to the B.I.A.

My motion to the Immigration Judge is not time or numerically barred as per regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 3.23(b)(4)(iii) (1998),imposes no time or numerical limitation on Aliens seeking to reopen deportation proceedings conducted in absentia pursuant to section 242 (b) of the I+N Act.. 8 U.S.C. § 1252 (b) 1988. Matter of Mancera 22 I + N Dec. 79. BIA 1998 Reaffirmed.

I am in a quandary as I did follow your directive and mailed the Motion to the B.I.A. I am convinced that the B.I.A. will summarily dismiss the motion. I am open to suggestions on how to correct the situation. Is there a number at the B.I.A. that I could call to redirect the motion to the Immigration Court, or if you are right could you cite the relevant precedent or Code of Federal Regulations.

Your patience on the telephone was deeply appreciated. Thanks.

Robert R. Watson

08/09/2008

Tel. 347-996-1847

One Commenter suggested that the in absentia hearing provisions in section 242B restrict only motions to reopen and judicial review and do not bar the timely filing of a notice of appeal on the merits of the case where a respondent received notification of the in absentia order prior to expiration of the time to file an appeal. The commenter advocated allowing direct appeals under such circumstances.

Commenters also objected to section 3.23(b)(4)(iii), formerly section 3.23(b)(6), which specifies under what circumstances an order of deportation entered in absentia may be rescinded. They noted that the rule makes no provision for rescission of an order of exclusion entered in absentia.

Response and Disposition: With regard to in absentia hearings under section 242B(c) of the Act, the commenters are correct that the statute only applies to deportation hearings and does not apply to in absentia exclusion hearings and, further, that appeals from orders entered following such exclusion hearings should be allowed. Therefore, the provision in section 3.1(b)(1) of the proposed regulation that stated that "no appeal shall lie from an order of exclusion entered in absentia" has been removed. An appeal from an order of exclusion entered in absentia is permissible but must be filed within the time limit for appeals set by section 3.38(b).

Further, an alien may file a motion to reopen exclusion proceedings to rescind an order of exclusion entered in absentia. Such a motion must

be supported by evidence that the alien had reasonable cause for his failure to appear at the exclusion hearing. This provision is consistent with the Board's decision in *Matter of Haim*, 19 I&N Dec. 641 (BIA 1988).

The rule retains the provision prohibiting an appeal to the Board from an Immigrations Judge's order of deportation entered in absentia. Congress restricted review of deportation orders entered in absentia in section 242B of the Act by providing that such orders may only be rescinded by filing a motion to reopen with the Immigration Judge. *See* section 242B(c)(1) of the Act; *Matter of Gonzalez-Lopez*, Interim Decision #33198 (BIA 1993). Further, the Board has confirmed that sections 3.1(b) and 3.3 allow an alien to appeal to the Board from an Immigration Judge's denial of such a motion to reopen an in absentia decision. *Matter of Gonzalez-Lopez* at 4. in addition to restricting the manner in which an in absentia order of deportation may be rescinded, Congress delayed eligibility for most forms of relief from asylum, withholding of removal.

(ii) I*n absentia proceedings*. - There are special rules pertaining to motions to reopen following an alien's failure to appear for a hearing. An "in absentia" order (an order entered when the alien did not come to the hearing) cannot be appealed to the Board. *Matter of Guzman*, 22 I&N Dec. 722 (BIA 1999). If an alien misses a hearing and the Immigration Judge orders the alien removed from the United States, the alien must file a motion to

reopen with the Immigration Judge, explaining why he or she missed the hearing. (Unlike the in absentia order, the Immigration Judge's ruling on the motion can be appealed.) Such motions are subject to strict deadlines under certain circumstances. See 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.2(c)(3)(i), 1003.23(b)(4)(ii), 1003.23(b)(4)(iii).

(iii) *Joint motions.* – Motions that are agreed upon by all parties and are jointly filed are not limited in time or number. See 8 C.F.R. § 1003.2 (c)(3)(iii).

(iv) *DHS motions.* – For cases in removal proceedings, DHS may not be subject to time and number limits on motions to reopen. See 8 C.F.R. § 1003.2(c)(2), (3). For cases brought in deportation or exclusion, DHS is subject to the time and number limits on motions to reopen, unless the basis of the motion is fraud in the original proceeding or a crime that would support termination of asylum. See 8 C.F.R. § 1003.2(c)(3)(iv).

(v) *Pre-9/30/96 motions.* – Motions filed before September 30, 1996, do not count.

However, this Board is also bound by the statutes enacted by Congress. See Matter of Valdovinos, 13 I & N Dec. 343 (BIA 1982), and cases cited therein. Where a federal statute and a regulation conflict, the statute controls. In fact section 242(b) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b) (1994), specifies that the controlling regulations in deportation proceedings must be consistent with the Act. It states that "proceedings before a special inquiry officer acting under the

provisions of this section shall be in accordance with such regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, as the Attorney General shall prescribe."

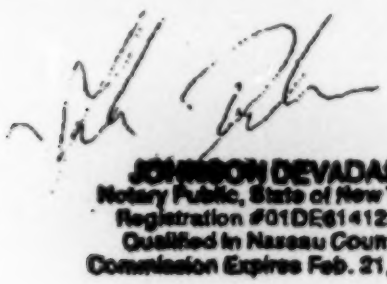
AFFIDAVIT

I Robert Watson, declare under the risk of perjury that the following declarations are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

(1) I did not receive or was aware of the Hearing Notice for my deportation proceedings.
(2) I did not receive Oral Notice of the consequences of the failure to appear at the deportation hearing.
(3) I did inform Mr. Pena of my change of address.
(4) I had relief in the form of Labor Certification filed. (filed 09/02/1987 approved 08/08/1989)
(5) I have admitted deportability due to the fact that I entered without inspection.
(6) I am stipulating to the veracity of all allegations in the OSC.
(7) A complete application for adjustment of status is on file with the BIA. filed 08/19/2008, (see exhibit I).
(8) My stay at the first address was very brief, I did not send or receive any mail while I was there, so I did not think it was necessary for me to leave a forwarding address.
(9) I am not the subject of any criminal proceedings.

Yours Truly.

State of New York
County of Queens
Sworn To Before Me
This 12th Day Of August 2006



JOHNSON DEVADAS
Notary Public, State of New York
Registration #01DE6141232
Qualified in Nassau County
Commission Expires Feb. 21, 2010

Board of Immigration Appeals.

To the honorable Judges, I'm attempting to disclose facts which may be pertinent to my appeal. My daughter Alexis was borned twenty three weeks and five days, weighing 1.25 lbs. The Doctor informed us that she would not survive. She received no assistance, no oxygen, she wasn't even placed in an incubator. She was just left to die. My wife hugged and massaged our baby fervently. We kept Alexis with us as we planned her funeral for the following day, desiring to put this painful and tragic incident behind us.

I told the nurse that we had finished saying goodbye, she took Alexis and proceeded towards the morgue. A shortwhile later that same nurse indicated that she wanted to speak with me privately. It was good news, she said that on the trip to the morgue Alexis had raised her arms through the blanket, and she was taken to the I.C.U., but the prognosis was not good. Well it was time to pray and the entire family did. The pain and agony of seeing ones daughter spreadeagled with wires and tubes all over her little body was excruciating, but with each passing day we became more hopeful.

She was transferred to the New York Presbyterian Hospital where she stayed for approximately five months. The Doctors and Nurses in the Pediatric Department were the absolute best, thanks to them and the mercy of the Almighty God Alexis celebrated her third birthday last month.

Alexis has several health issues related to her extreme prematurity, her speech is severely delayed, she has been diagnosed as being retarded and her eyesight is compromised due to the length of time she spent on the ventilator; although faced with all these problems Alexis is a very happy child. She is responding very well to the great love and care which she receives from us. Alexis had in home therapy until she was three years old. The therapy is now included in her curriculum in school.

Alexis came home from the hospital hooked up to a portable pulse oximiter/oxygen saturation machine. I took off from work and Vena and I stayed awake in shifts ensuring that the monitor was always monitored. Eventually Vena went back to work and I officially became Mr. Mom. I can recall numerous instances when I was the only male in the doctors' waiting room. I'm not complaining, I'm just terrified that I may not be around to contribute both emotionally and financially towards her care. Alexis will probably require special care for a very long time.

Caring for Alexis took a great toll on us financially, especially Vena, seeing that only one of us could work. During this period our income was greatly reduced, our mortgage went into foreclosure twice. Vena had to raid her I.R.A. to save our home. Her credit ratings was severely damaged because all the bills were being paid later and later every month.

Your Honors these were difficult and trying times but the the immense joy and love we experienced with our precious daughter is well worth it. We own a small trucking outfit which I operate, with the new regulations in place it's become very difficult for me to obtain work. Given the opportunity to adjust my status I could generate more than enough revenue to facilitate a very comfortable situation for my family.

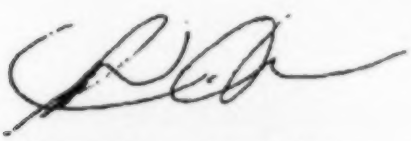
I am making this personal appeal, unorthodox as it may seems, because I'm sure some members of the committee if not all are parents and will probably understand the fear and trepidation of being forcibly separated from your wife and child especially your daughter. I'm forty five years old and I have only one child, this was no accident. I firmly believe that a child should be raised by both parents in a matrimonial setting.

Included the names of two therapists Alexis at home and would be aware of the close bond between us. Mrs. Jadqueline L. Pierce tel. 917 699-6298 and Mr. Zuben. Tel. 516 287-0241. If you ask someone for a testimonial they surely will write only what they think you would like to hear, but I think you would be interested in the unvarnished truth. They are unaware of my situation and if you should contact them I'm confident that you will elicit germane information without divulging my status.

Thanks for reading my letter and I'm praying and hoping that there will be a positive outcome to my case. In ending I will borrow some lines from

Joseph Addison to express my feelings for my daughter.

> Certain it is that there is no kind of affection so purely angelic as that of a father to a daughter. He beholds her both with and without regard to her sex. In love to our wives there is desire, to our sons there is ambition, but in that to our daughters there is something which there are no words to express.



ROBERT WATSON.

APPLE
A Preschool Program for Learning and Enrichment
QUEENS CENTERS FOR PROGRESS
82-25 164th Street - Jamaica, NY 11432
(718) 374-0002 - Fax: (718) 380-3214

CHILD'S NAME: Alexis Watson
DATE OF BIRTH: 9/8/01 .

THE FOLLOWING THERAPY(IES) ARE RECOMMENDED:

✓ OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
✓ PHYSICAL THERAPY
✓ SPEECH THERAPY

11/11/04

PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE

K.K. GUPTA, M.D., F.A.A.P.
214-08 HILLSIDE AVE.
QUEENS VILLAGE, N.Y. 11427
(PLEASE PRINT) PHYSICIAN'S NAME) 217-8202

Jf/eh
F:/FORMS/THERAPYLTR.O3

CHILDREN'S CENTRAL/APPLE
QUEENS CENTERS FOR PROGRESS
82-25 164th Street
Jamaica, NY 11432
(718) 347-0002, Ext. 471

Date: October 12, 2004

Dear Physician:

In order for Alexis Watson to continue receiving physical, occupational and/or speech/language therapy, a prescription is needed.

Please complete the attached form.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Eileen Fontanetta, M.D.

Eileen Fontanetta, M.D.

EF/ps

f:/DrPrescriptionReq.ltr.wpd

NOV 08 2004

QUEENS CENTER FOR PROGESS
Apple Program
82-25 164th Street
Jamaica, NY 11432
718-374-0002 Fax: 718-380-3214

Date: 11/4/04

Dear Parents,

In order for us to keep an up-to-date record, in case of emergencies, could you please provide a list of all medications that your child takes at home.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 718-374-0002, ext. 469.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Medical office

Child's Name Alexis Watson
Parent's Name Robert & Vena Watson

Medications taken at home:
Albuterol via nebulizer
Pulmocort
□ Check this box if no medications is taken at home.
Date 11/4/04
PLEASE RETURN TO NURSES
CH:ps
f:/HomeMeds.form.wpd